

Who Paid for the Bullet?

The important thing to know about most assassinations, a Turkish secret police official asserts in "A Coffin for Dimitrios," Eric Ambler's classic suspense novel, "is not who fired the shot, but who paid for the bullet."

He was referring to men of economic or political power who "desire the end but are afraid of the means," and who therefore remain unidentified in the shadows and hire to do the killing "the fanatics, the idealists who are prepared to die for their convictions."

Last week two men accused of sensational assassinations in the United States were in custody, indicted for murder. In one case, that of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, charged with slaying Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in Los Angeles, there has so far been disclosed insufficient evidence to indicate the killing was planned by more than one man.

But in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King in Memphis, evidence strongly indicates that the fugitive suspect, James Earl Ray, had help in arranging his escape, strengthening the theory that some kind of conspiracy existed.

Procedure for Extradition

Ray, indicted as Dr. King's murderer, was arrested in London June 8. Last week the United States applied for his extradition. A London court is expected to hold hearing on the matter late this week or early next week. (The delay is to give Ray's lawyers time to study the U.S. document.) Then if the court—as expected—agrees to the extradition, Ray can by legal appeals delay its execution about one month. If his final appeal is rejected, the British home secretary is expected to order the extradition at once.

In Washington last week, some officials—recalling what happened to the man suspected of assassinating President John F. Kennedy—suggested that a secret flight, possibly in a military plane, might bring Ray back alive. (Lee Harvey Oswald, suspected slayer of President Kennedy, was himself killed in the custody of Dallas police only two days after the assassination.)

The evidence that Dr. King's as-

sassination may have been plotted by and financed by others thus made it appear that Ray may need heavy protection if he is not to be silenced by a bullet.

Careful Selection of Aliases

A sniper slew Dr. King in Memphis April 4. It was confirmed that as long ago as the summer of 1967, Ray used the name of Eric S. Galt on a visit to Montreal. And in the United States he often called himself Galt.

Actually, there is a real Eric S. Galt, supervisor in an industrial company in Toronto. And living in the same section of the city as Galt are two other men whose names Ray has used: Paul Bridgman, a school official, and Ramon George Sneyd, a Toronto police constable. Each resembles Ray remarkably. Galt even has scars on his forehead and on the palm of his right hand—as does Ray.

Ray's physical similarity to Galt, to Bridgman and Sneyd, raised speculation on the possibility of a careful effort to confuse any pursuit or investigation by creating an apparent double or triple identity. This involved recollection of significant events in Ray's life, including his escape from the United States.

London. From London he flew to Lisbon, stayed there 10 days, then flew back to London, where he was arrested because Canadian authorities had traced the false passport to him.

Besides the careful selection of aliases, the money that Ray spent is noteworthy. In Birmingham, Ala., he bought a car and paid \$1,900 in cash for it. In California he paid a fee of \$455 for dance lessons and a \$250 fee to attend a bartending school. And there was the money needed to live while hiding, and the money to fly to Europe.

While investigation of Dr. King's murder continued and preparations for Ray's trial in Memphis were made by the State of Tennessee, in New Orleans a hearing was set Monday on arguments by lawyers for Clay L. Shaw who are trying to prevent his trial on a charge of conspiring to assassinate President Kennedy. A

panel of three federal judges will decide if Clay shall be given a permanent injunction to prevent Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison from prosecuting him.

In Los Angeles last week, testimony before a grand jury investigating the assassination of Sen. Kennedy disclosed more facts about "the girl in the polka dot dress"—who may have no connection with the case other than her presence at the assassination scene, but who has not come forward.

Vincent di Pierro, a student and part-time waiter at the Ambassador Hotel, said that before the shooting he saw a good-looking girl with a shapely figure beside the suspect, Sirhan. She was wearing a polka dot dress and she and Sirhan were standing up on a tray stacker in the hotel's kitchen area, Di Pierro said.

Shortly after the shooting a girl in a polka dot dress was reported leaving the scene and one worker in the Kennedy campaign quoted her as saying: "We shot him . . . we shot Kennedy."

Los Angeles police, the district attorney's office and the U.S. Justice Department announced formation last week of a special detective force of 23 men to investigate the assassination. A thorough investigation of every lead or clue to try to disclose every aspect of the killing was promised.

*there was no girl.
DRAFT it was (in)
S. Pierro*